

Remarks

Claims 1-20 were pending in the subject application. By this Amendment, claim 3 has been amended, claims 7-20 have been cancelled, and new claims 21-23 have been added. Support for these amendments and claims 21-23 can be found, for example, at page 3, lines 9-14, pages 6-7, and page 15, lines 12-21, of the specification as originally filed. The undersigned avers that no new matter is introduced by this amendment. Accordingly, claims 3, 4, and 21-23 are currently before the Examiner for consideration. Favorable consideration of the claims in view of this response is earnestly solicited.

The applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement as set forth in the Office Action dated July 15, 2003 and request that the Examiner rejoin the inventions of Groups I-III. It is respectfully submitted that rejoinder of the inventions would not create an undue search or examination burden on the Examiner or the Patent Office. The subject matter of Groups I-III is within the same field of search and is classed and subclassed the same. The applicants expressly reserve the right to petition this restriction requirement.

The applicants have added dependent claims 21-23 in order to clarify that the recitation of "antigen" in claim 3 encompasses molecules other than proteins. For example, the term "antigen" is recognized in the art to mean any foreign agent that stimulates a specific immune response, such as glycoproteins, polysaccharides, lipids, DNA, RNA, ribonucleoprotein, virus, bacterium, or other substance.

It should be understood that these amendments have been made solely to expedite prosecution of the subject application to completion, and should not be construed as an indication of the applicants' agreement with or acquiescence in the Examiner's position. The applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue the invention(s) disclosed in the subject application, including any subject matter cancelled or not pursued during prosecution of the subject application, in a related application.

In view of the amendments to the claims, the applicants believe that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.


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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account 19-0065.

The applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



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